

Luke 2:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Analysis

Simeon's revelation 'by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ' demonstrates God's gracious encouragement to His servants. The passive construction 'it was revealed' emphasizes God's initiative in making known what couldn't be discovered naturally. The Holy Spirit's specific promise sustained Simeon through years of waiting, showing how divine assurance enables patient endurance. The phrase 'the Lord's Christ' (Messiah) shows Simeon expected God's Anointed One. That God gave this personal revelation demonstrates His pastoral care, ensuring one faithful servant would recognize and testify to Messiah. This promise's fulfillment validates faith and demonstrates God's faithfulness to His word.

Historical Context

The revelation came during decades or centuries of prophetic silence, sustaining Simeon's hope when others despaired. His prolonged life to witness Messiah's coming demonstrates God's sovereign control over life and death to accomplish His purposes. The Spirit's promise prepared one witness to testify to Jesus's identity.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's specific promises to individuals sustain them through long waiting?
2. What does Simeon's prolonged life teach about God's sovereignty over death's timing?
3. How does the Spirit's revelation enable recognition of Christ when others miss Him?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἦν	αὐτῷ	κεχρηματισμένον	ὑπὸ	τοῦ	πνεύματος		
And	it was	unto him	revealed	by	G3588	Ghost		
G2532	G2258	G846	G5537	G5259		G4151		
τοῦ	ἁγίου	μὴ	ἴδῃ	θάνατον	πρὶν	ἢ	ἴδῃ	τὸν
G3588	the Holy	not	he had seen	death	before	G2228	he had seen	G3588
	G40	G3361	G1492	G2288	G4250		G1492	
Χριστὸν	κυρίου							
Christ	the Lord's							
G5547	G2962							

Additional Cross-References

John 8:51 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

Hebrews 11:5 (Parallel theme): By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Luke 9:27 (Parallel theme): But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

Acts 10:38 (Holy): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 2:36 (References Christ): Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Psalms 25:14 (References Lord): The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

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